

18 JULY 1965

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ADVANCE FOR 5 P.M. EST (760)  
(ADVANCE) NEW YORK, JULY 18 (AP) - THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF THE 1961 CUBAN INVASION  
RIGHT UP TO THE MOMENT HE GAVE THE FINAL GO-AHEAD, HISTORIAN AND  
FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER JR. SAID TODAY.

THE REPORT, THE SECOND IN A SERIES IN LIFE MAGAZINE, IS FROM  
SCHLESINGER'S FORTHCOMING BOOK, "A THOUSAND DAYS: JOHN F. KENNEDY IN  
THE WHITE HOUSE."

KENNEDY FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE CUBAN INVASION PLANS FROM CENTRAL  
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR ALLEN DULLES 12 DAYS AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION, SCHLESINGER SAID.

AT THAT TIME, THE PLAN ALREADY WAS FAR ADVANCED AND KENNEDY GAVE  
DIRECTIONS FOR IT TO PROCEED, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS  
INTEREST DID NOT MEAN COMMITMENT TO THE OPERATION.

"HE THEN AUTHORIZED THE CIA TO CONTINUE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT  
THE INVASION WOULD OCCUR," SCHLESINGER WROTE, "BUT HE... ADDED,  
CAREFULLY AND CATEGORICALLY, THAT THE EXPEDITION MUST BE LAID ON IN A  
WAY WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO CALL IT OFF AS LATE AS  
24 HOURS BEFORE D-DAY."

SCHLESINGER SAID THAT ON MARCH 28, 1961, HE ASKED KENNEDY WHAT HE  
THOUGHT OF THE INVASION. "I THINK ABOUT IT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE,"  
HE SAID. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED,

THE HISTORIAN ADDED, "IN HIS JUDGMENT, THE CRITICAL POINT--THE WEAK  
PART OF THE CASE FOR GOING AHEAD--LAY IN THE THEORY THAT THE LANDINGS  
WOULD TOUCH OFF A MASS INSURRECTION AGAINST THE REGIME (OF CUBAN  
PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO). THE PRESIDENT IT SEEMED TO ME, WAS GROWING  
STEADILY MORE SKEPTICAL AS HIS HARD QUESTIONING EXPOSED ONE PROBLEM  
AFTER ANOTHER IN THE PLANS."

Continued